GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2914
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2002
WELFARE SCHEMES FOR THE HANDICAPPED OF ORISSA
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handicapped of different categories in Orissa and the schemes of the Union Government undertaken for their rehabilitation;

(b) the amount sanctioned to the Government of Orissa since April 1,1998 separately, scheme-wise and amount-wise;

(c) the number of handicapped people benefited and rehabilitated under this scheme year-wise;

(d) whether the State Government of Orissa has failed to utilize the sanctioned amount in full for the benefit of adequate number of handicapped persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) In a survey conducted by Government of Orissa during the years 1993-1995, 62924 orthopaedically handicapped, 47473 visually impaired, 36305 hearing impaired and 11501 mentally challenged persons were identified. In the State of Orissa, the Government of India is supporting a number of programmes for manpower development in the rehabilitation field and training and rehabilitation services for the persons with disabilities through the National Institutes, Regional Rehabilitation Centres and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres. The National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (NIRTAR) and a Regional Rehabilitation Centre for persons with spinal injuries and orthopaedic disabilities are located in the State. Besides, the Non-Governmental Organisations are assisted under the Scheme to promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities and Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances. National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation also provides soft loans for self-employment ventures.

(b) to (d) The grant-in aid released to the Government of Orissa under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of Handicapped during 1998-99 to 2001-2002 was Rs. 1.61 lakhs. 109 persons with disabilities got jobs during 1998 to 2001. The National Programme of Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) has been launched at the end of 1999-2000 as a State Sector Scheme and an amount of Rs. 379.40 lakhs has been released so far. The utilization of funds may take some time, as the implementation of the proagramme involves a number of steps and rehabilitation is a multi prolonged activity.

(e) A mechanism is already in existence in the persona of Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in the State to coordinate with departments of State Government for implementation of the programmes and to monitor the utilization of funds etc. Besides, the Ministry also monitors the progress in this regard to ensure full utilization of the amounts released to the State Government/Union Territories.